

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1.     A method of allocating freight haulage jobs, comprising:  
2           receiving capacity attributes, including position information, route information  
3           and excess capacity information, for each of a set of mobile carrier entities;  
4           computing a projection of available carrier capacity based upon the received  
5           mobile carrier capacity attributes; and  
6           identifying one or more freight haulage job candidates from the set of mobile  
7           carrier entities based upon the computed projection of available carrier capacity and  
8           shipping attributes for each of a set of freight haulage jobs.

1           2.     The method of claim 1, wherein computing the projection of available  
2           carrier capacity comprises estimating future positions of one or more of the mobile  
3           carrier entities.

1           3.     The method of claim 2, wherein future positions of one or more of the  
2           mobile carrier entities are estimated at one or more times within pickup time  
3           windows specified for each of the freight haulage jobs.

1           4.     The method of claim 2, wherein future positions of one or more of the  
2           mobile carrier entities are estimated based at least in part upon current transport  
3           condition information.

1           5.     The method of claim 2, wherein the freight haulage job candidates are  
2           identified based at least in part upon the proximity of the estimated mobile carrier  
3           entity positions to pickup locations specified for each of the freight haulage jobs.

1           6.     The method of claim 1, wherein the received excess capacity  
2           information includes amount of available capacity and mode of transport.

1           7.     The method of claim 6, wherein the freight haulage job candidates are  
2           identified based at least in part upon a comparison of the received excess capacity  
3           information and an amount of needed capacity and mode of transport specified for  
4           each of the freight haulage jobs.

1           8.     The method of claim 1, further comprising computing an amount of  
2 capacity available on a given mobile carrier entity based upon excess capacity  
3 information received from the given mobile carrier entity.

1           9.     The method of claim 8, wherein excess capacity information includes  
2 maximum volume information and maximum weight haulable by the given mobile  
3 carrier entity and volume information and weight for each item of freight being  
4 hauled by the given mobile carrier entity.

1           10.    A computer program for allocating freight haulage jobs, the computer  
2 program residing on a computer-readable medium and comprising computer-  
3 readable instructions for causing a computer to:

4                receive capacity attributes, including position information, route information  
5 and excess capacity information, for each of a set of mobile carrier entities;

6                compute a projection of available carrier capacity based upon the received  
7 mobile carrier capacity attributes; and

8                identify one or more freight haulage job candidates from the set of mobile  
9 carrier entities based upon the computed projection of available carrier capacity and  
10 shipping attributes for each of a set of freight haulage jobs.

1           11.    The computer program of claim 10, wherein computing the projection  
2 of available carrier capacity comprises estimating future positions of one or more of  
3 the mobile carrier entities.

1           12.    The computer program of claim 11, wherein future positions of one or  
2 more of the mobile carrier entities are estimated at one or more times within pickup  
3 time windows specified for each of the freight haulage jobs.

1           13.    The computer program of claim 12, wherein the freight haulage job  
2 candidates are identified based at least in part upon the proximity of the estimated  
3 mobile carrier entity positions to pickup locations specified for each of the freight  
4 haulage jobs.

1           14.    The computer program of claim 10, wherein the received excess  
2 capacity information includes amount of available capacity and mode of transport.

1           15.    The computer program of claim 14, wherein the freight haulage job  
2 candidates are identified based at least in part upon a comparison of the received  
3 excess capacity information and an amount of needed capacity and mode of  
4 transport specified for each of the freight haulage jobs.

1           16.    The computer program of claim 10, further comprising computing an  
2 amount of capacity available on a given mobile carrier entity based upon excess  
3 capacity information received from the given mobile carrier entity.

1           17.    The computer program of claim 16, wherein excess capacity  
2 information includes maximum volume information and maximum weight haulable  
3 by the given mobile carrier entity and volume information and weight for each item  
4 of freight being hauled by the given mobile carrier entity.

1           18.    A portable device, comprising:  
2           a memory;  
3           a wireless transceiver;  
4           a positioner operable to compute position information;  
5           a scanner operable to direct a light beam at a symbol and to recover  
6 information embedded in the symbol based upon detected reflections from the  
7 symbol; and  
8           a controller coupled to the memory, the wireless transceiver, the positioner,  
9 and the scanner and operable to obtain from the scanner capacity attributes,  
10 including position information, route information and excess capacity information,  
11 for a mobile carrier entity and to control wireless transmission of the capacity  
12 attributes through the wireless transceiver in accordance with a mobile wireless  
13 communication protocol.

1           19.    The portable device of claim 18, wherein the positioner comprises a  
2 GPS receiver.

1           20.    The portable device of claim 18, wherein the controller is operable to  
2   compute excess capacity information from scanned information relating to maximum  
3   volume information and maximum weight haulable by a given mobile carrier entity  
4   and volume information and weight for each item of freight being hauled by the  
5   given mobile carrier entity.